

Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 29

MARCH, 1979

NUMBER 2

1978 OCWM REPORT

Conference Treasurer, J.R. Wilson, Jr. and Bookkeeper, Barbara Ludwig, report that the total giving of our churches to Our Christian World Mission in 1978 was \$87,377.22. This does not quite reach our goal of \$90,000, but compares very favorably with the \$77,174.00 given in 1977. The 1978 figure does not include the approximately \$28,294.58 given in Special Support or the \$6,075.34 given to New Church Development.

Our congratulations and thanks to Association, Conference and local church Stewardship leaders for their effective efforts.

Each SEC church is asked to set their own OCWM Goals for 1979 and to send the name of the church and the 1979 OCWM Goal to the SEC Office.

Ministers' Convocations Scheduled

Two Ministers' Convocations have been planned this year for ministers of SEC churches. Ministers are invited to attend one or both events.

The first of these, entitled a "Convocation for Ministers of Small Churches," will be held at Camp Grandview near Prattville, AL from April 27-29. All ministers, spouses and lay leaders are invited to attend. Rev. Ed Mehlhaff, Conference stewardship advisor, and Rev. Joyce Myers, Southeastern OCLL representative, will be guest program leaders. Cost is \$30.00 per person. Some scholarship help is available if there is a need. Reservation forms will be mailed directly to ministers.

On April 30 - May 2, the Southeast Conference will sponsor a "Ministers/Spouses Convocation" to be held at Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, AL. In addition to Rev. Joyce Myers and Rev. Ed Mehlhaff, Rev. Ralph Quellhorst of OCLL and Rev. Don Bundy of the Pension Boards will be present for program leadership. Further information will be mailed directly to ministers.

Come to one, or come to both!

ONE WORLD ONE FAMILY



OGHS Offering To Be Celebrated

March 25, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, is the day that is most frequently observed as One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday in congregations throughout the United States. On this occasion many congregations share with their members information about the work that has been accomplished through OGHS gifts during the past year and challenge their members to generous and sacrificial giving for the current year.

This all-church offering provides more than \$1.5 million each year for the work of the Service Division of our United Church Board for World Ministries. While giving to OGHS has increased year-by-year over the past two decades, its buying power has actually been diminished by inflation and further diminished by the fluctuations of the U.S. dollar on the world exchange.

For what does money from the One Great Hour of Sharing go? Primarily, OGHS funds support our response to disasters anywhere in the world, our participation in the resettlement of refu-

[Continued on Page 2]

SEC 1979 Annual Meeting June 8-10

The 1979 Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, Inc. will be held Friday through Sunday noon, June 8-10, 1979 on the campus of Talladega College, Talladega, AL.

Guest leaders for the Conference will be Rev. Dr. Peggy Way, Professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville and Rev. Norman Jackson, Executive Associate to the President of the United Church of Christ.

Special emphasis may be given to 1979 International Year of the Child, the handicapped and the Youth Core.

Housing will be in the dormitories on the campus and a few may find housing in motels not too far away.

Early morning worship will be in the Talladega United Church of Christ, adjacent to the campus. The Sunday morning worship will be in Forrest Chapel.

Milton Hurst has agreed to direct the music if Franklin Thomas will play the organ!

President Joseph N. Gayler, Jr. extends a warm welcome to the delegates and friends as they come to the Talladega College.

Moderator, David L. Beebe, reminds the churches that each church is entitled to three (3) delegates. Churches having a membership of over one hundred (100) members shall be entitled to one additional voting delegate for each additional 100 members or major fraction thereof.

Ordained and licensed ministers of the Conference are voting members. Duly elected officers of the Conference and members of the Board of Directors are delegates-at-large to the Conference meetings with the right to vote.

Youth, grades 7-12, are urged to attend. Once again this year the SEC Youth Core will provide leadership for youth programs and activities during the annual meeting.

Detailed information and registration blanks will soon be mailed to SEC churches.

Children To Come First in '79

Did you know that 1979 has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of the Child? A resolution adopted last year by the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA encourages churches to:

1. Study the United Nations declaration of the Rights of the Child.
2. Give careful consideration to **ALL OUR CHILDREN: THE AMERICAN FAMILY UNDER PRESSURE**, recently published as the result of a five-year study by the Carnegie Council on Children. The study calls for new understanding of the importance of supporting a variety of family units by redirecting needed services in such a way that the family-unit's integrity is preserved. The Carnegie report concludes that "the greatest single harm to children is poverty."
3. Recognize and strive to implement the rights specifically related to children in churches as valued persons in the congregation, with the right to be nurtured in the faith and to be given freedom of religious choice. The child, according to the NCC resolution, has the right to full participation in the church regardless of sex, race, color, or nationality.
4. Develop a global perspective on responsibilities toward children.

Capital Punishment Opposed

On February 14th, religious leaders throughout the South assembled in Atlanta to discuss ways of working together on an ecumenical basis to oppose capital punishment. Several events were decided upon, the first of which will be a Seder service to be held in the major cities throughout the South on either April 8 or 9. The service will focus on a liturgy designed around the theme of abolition of capital punishment.

Religious communities throughout the South are urged to participate in the Seder services and oppose the executions which will begin this spring and summer in several southern states.

For further information on the Seder services, write Rabbi Bogage, Union of American Hebrew Congregations South-east Council, 119 E. Flager St., Suite 238, Miami, FL 33131.

Whatever Became Of Sin?

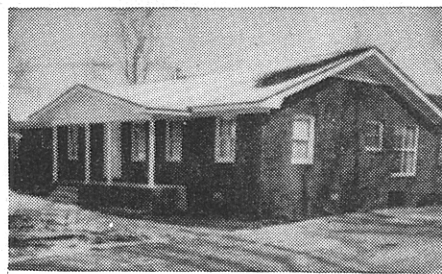
Responding to the invitation to speak at the 27th Annual National Prayer Breakfast, a Washington tradition at the opening of each new session of Congress, Archbishop Fulton Sheen, 83, lived up to his reputation by opening his address to religious leaders and politicians — which included President and Mrs. Carter and Rev. Billy Graham — with these words: "Mr. President, Mrs. Carter, my fellow sinners . . ."

Sheen went on to say, "We Americans are not very much given to the thought of sin. We may make a 'mistake' or else we excuse our so-called anti-social behavior because we were fed Grade B milk as children, or because of insufficient playgrounds, or because we were loved too much by a mother or too little by a father. The result is that no one is a sinner. It used to be that Catholics were the only ones who believed in the Immaculate conception of the Mother of Christ, but today, everyone in America seems to be immaculately conceived."

Whatever became of sin?

Pleasant Hill Church Meets Senator

Some 35 members of Pleasant Hill, TN Community Church met recently with Tennessee State Senator Anna Belle O'Brien. Senator O'Brien gave an informative account of legislative issues and proposals which was followed by a period for questions and answers. In a time of pressure groups, low credibility and distrust, similar meetings between people and political leaders are important. If nothing else, it provides a forum for people to express their concerns and communicate their questions.



The new parsonage, Belvidere United Church of Christ, Belvidere, TN, which was completed in December, 1978. The new home has been completely paid for by the congregation.

Laun Visits Atlanta Area

Dr. Manfred Laun of the Evangelical Hospital in Khariar, India, a rural, isolated area of the eastern state of Orissa, was guest speaker in the Atlanta area February 2-9, 1979. He brought new insights and understanding of the needs in that area of India, as well as the imperative dimension of the Gospel to go into all the world and minister to the needs of people.

He spoke in the following churches: Gwinnett, Cobb, Central, First and Bonanza. He was scheduled to be in Demorest, Braselton and Duncan's Creek and Rush Memorial but ice and snow prevented these gatherings. He did visit Piedmont College before the ice storm.

Under the care of Mr. and Mrs. George Percival of the new church in Gwinnett County, Dr. Laun visited Stone Mountain, Center of Disease Control, Emory Hospital, Fernbank Science Center, downtown Atlanta, Villa International and shared in an international gathering of some 500 people in North Avenue Presbyterian Church, Atlanta.

Thanks to many people who provided hospitality and shared in the life and ministry of Dr. Laun.

OGHS Offering

[From Page 1]

gees in the United States, and a wide variety of agricultural and community development projects in more than 70 countries.

Last year, for instance, we were able to respond — because of your gifts to OGHS — to cyclone and flood damage in India, to hurricane destruction in Belize, to privation due to floods, droughts, earthquakes, and wars — all around the world. With the help of funds from OGHS, United Church of Christ congregations continue to help resettle refugees from many places, but especially from Southeast Asia. And, again, all around the world, we are helping poverty-stricken families to develop skills and the ability to feed themselves and to improve their lot. All this, because we recognize ourselves to be part of God's one worldwide family, carrying a special concern — because of our commitment to Christ — for the last, the least, and the lost.

This year, give even more generously than ever before to the One Great Hour of Sharing! We live in one world and we are part of one human family. Our sharing in this One Great Hour lies close to the heart of the Gospel.

Tale of the Carpenter's Tools

The carpenter's tools had a conference. Brother Hammer was in the chair. The meeting had informed him that he must leave because he was much too noisy, but he said, "If I am to leave this carpenter's shop, Brother Gimlet must also go. You have to turn him around and around, again and again, to ever get anywhere." And Brother Screw said, "If you wish, I will go, but Brother Plane must leave also; all his work is on the surface. There is no depth in him." And to this Brother Plane replied, "Well, Brother Rule will have to withdraw if I do, for he is always measuring other folk as though he is the only one who is ever right. And Brother Sandpaper is rougher than he ought to be, and he is always rubbing people the wrong way."

And in the midst of this discussion the Carpenter of Nazareth walked in. He put on his apron and went to his bench to make a pulpit. He employed the screw, the gimlet, the sandpaper, the saw, the hammer, the plane, and all the other tools. And after the day's work was over and the pulpit was finished, Brother Saw arose and said, "Brethren, I perceive that all of us are laborers together with God." (I Cor. 3: 9a)

There was no accusation against one of these tools that was not absolutely true. And yet the carpenter used every one of them. And there was not a place where he used any one, where any other could have been used at all.

— Randy Gehres
— Morgan County Parish Newsletter

Children's Needs Concern of Belvidere Church

At its 1979 Annual Meeting, Belvidere, TN, United Church of Christ approved a local "Children's Outreach Program" to be administered by the church. Some \$1200 needed to fund the program was also approved.

The purpose of Belvidere's "Children's Outreach Program" is to demonstrate in a tangible way Christian love and support for children or families with children who are experiencing financial or other pressing needs. First priority will be given to families affiliated with Belvidere's congregation, then to families in the surrounding community or Franklin County.

A special committee has been appointed



Presentation of award to Rev. Ed Smallwood, [l-r]
J.K. Murphy, Smallwood, Norman Stainig, James McAdams

Smallwood-Talents Fund Stirs Mission Efforts

In response to a special \$500 gift from SEC minister, Rev. Ed Smallwood, the Western Cluster Ministers have set up a "Smallwood-Talents Fund" to promote participation in mission projects. Like the parable of the talents, funds are made available to churches as "seed money" for mission fund-raising efforts after which the "seed money" is returned to the Smallwood-Talents Fund to promote future projects.

Thus far, the Smallwood-Talents Fund has been responsible for some \$2,483.00 raised for Habitat for Humanity by four Western Alabama Cluster churches: Alexander City First, Elder Church, Montgomery First and East Tallassee. Through use of the "seed money," each of these churches sponsored projects all the way from raffles to gospel sings.

Rev. Smallwood was honored by the ministers of the Western Cluster who presented him with a plaque at a special dinner held in his honor.

to administer the program by:

1. Making final selection of recipient(s).
2. Determining amount, time and method of payment (whether by direct grant or purchase of goods.)
3. Providing close liaison with the recipient's family.
4. Providing the congregation with an annual report of this work.

What is your church doing to meet the needs of people in your community? Consider Belvidere's approach and plan your own program?

1200 Women Gather

Mrs. Lois Harry, a member of Lanett Congregational Christian Church, UCC in Lanett, AL, writes: It isn't very often that I have the opportunity to attend a church meeting with 1200 in attendance! But some 1200 women, and a small number of men, gathered from all over the U.S. and overseas at the Netherland Hilton in Cincinnati, Ohio from January 10 through 13 for the UCC National Meeting of Women for Leadership Development.

There were numerous concerns. Seventy-seven workshops were offered for our choices, covering subjects which appealed to the conservatives, moderates, liberals and extremists. To be sure, some of all categories were present. Sixteen different groups met on Wednesday afternoon for Gatherings of People With Common Concerns and Interests, ranging from Charismatics to Gay Caucus.

From early morning until midnight meetings and discussions were held — some as lengthy as 2½ hours! The highlights of the meeting for me were the Presentation of the Cups and the Celebration of Holy Communion.

It was miraculous that such a oneness of spirit could be felt among people with such diverse opinions! This is what happens when we share a common cup, a common loaf and a common bond of Christian fellowship with Him. I do believe we discovered afresh our responsibility to God and our unique union and mission through this act of worship.

Florida Camp Scheduled

A spring Mini-Camp for Junior and Senior High (grades 7-12), will be held April 20-22 at the Assemblies of God Camp near Marianna, Florida (just off U.S.-90). Sponsored through the Southern Alabama Area Council, youth of Alabama, West Georgia and Northwest Florida are invited. Dinner will be available for late arrivals on Friday. Saturday afternoon the group will go to a beach on the Gulf for fun, supper and continued activities.

The cost will be \$15.00 per person. Some associations have scholarship help. Each camper should check with their Association Religious Education Committee if there is a need.

Camp Director will be J.K. Murphy. Sgt. Bob Stalknecker has agreed most generously to lend his talents as the Director of Food Services.

A training session for those desiring counseling positions will be held from 10:00-4:00 on March 31 at the Bonanza Restaurant, 3929 Atlanta Highway in Montgomery, AL. For further information, contact: Southern Alabama Area Council, Attn: Camp Director, P.O. Box 773, Phenix City, AL 36967.

What Are You Doing With Your Life?

Perhaps you are a high school graduate with a year or more of work experience, vaguely dissatisfied with what you are now doing and open to the possibility of spending some time helping others. Or perhaps you are now in college but looking for a different way to spend your summer. In either case, you may be interested in the opportunities for community and institutional service currently being offered by our United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

There are nearly thirty opportunities on the current list being circulated by UCBHM. Perhaps one of them would be of interest to you as a way to "invest" yourself this summer and to learn about the possibilities of a career in community or institutional service.

For further information, contact:
SUMMER SERVICE

United Church Board of Homeland Ministries

287 Park Avenue South — Room 81
New York, New York 10010

The Church And The Handicapped

Ms. Ethel N. Owen, member of Birmingham Pilgrim UCC, was the Southeast Conference representative to the UCBHM regional conference on "The Church and the Handicapped," held at Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA November 16-18. Some 35 persons from eight different states met to consider the 11th General Synod's resolution on the "Church and Persons With Handicaps"

which challenges the UCC "to undertake at local, association, conference and national levels a study of the role of persons with handicaps through groups made up of persons who are handicapped and those who are not . . . in order to determine how best to motivate the caring concern of congregations in order to minister with and to persons with handicaps and to remove physical barriers to this end."

In her report, Ms. Owen states, "The barriers that exist in most churches are both architectural and attitudinal. Many churches have made their facilities more accessible by providing a ramp or an elevator. However, much needs to be done in the realm of attitudinal barriers. There are the invisible barriers that still stand in the way of citizens with disabilities, such as the negative attitudes still held by many individuals who fail to recognize the importance of independent, dignified life styles for people with disabilities. Many of these attitudes arise from fear or a simple lack of knowledge about disability. One example is the myth that disability is a constantly frustrating tragedy. The fact is that disability is an inconvenience. Most people with disabilities don't sit around and ponder their disability all the time. Rather, they simply carry on their lives as normally as they can. Individuals with disabilities cannot be stereotyped any more than can other minority groups. Each person is an individual personality, and, as such, each person with a disability will deal with his or her disability differently.

Some of the ways the church can become involved in working with people with handicaps are:

- (1) remove architectural barriers to make the building accessible
- (2) remove attitudinal barriers
- (3) get involved in programs to assist in hiring people with handicaps
- (4) make programs in the church accessible to all, including those who are hard of hearing, deaf or blind."

Ms. Owen, a physical therapist at the Spain Rehabilitation Center in Birmingham for the past six years, would be happy to speak to church groups about architectural and attitudinal barriers to the handicapped. To contact her, write in care of: Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, 3801 Montclair Road, Birmingham, AL 35213.



[top] Rev. Dale Foreman re-proposing to his wife at the South AL Assoc. Sweetheart Banquet at Antioch Church, Andalusia, AL. [bottom] Central AL Assoc. Valentine King and Queen Felix and Jettie Logan.



Youth Core Training Enjoyed

Some 26 UCY representatives met February 23-25 at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, GA for a Youth Core Leadership Training session, the second one to be held this year. Youth and advisors, many of whom received leadership training last year, were counseled by Steve Hudder, youth coordinator for the Southeast Conference, in leadership and Youth Group development. Exercises were led in programming, group organization, and problem solving; and strategies in youth ministry and improvement of group involvement were discussed.

Youth Core members learned how to figure costs for projects, how to design and lead programs, how to find group interests and solve group problems, and much more based on working towards the improvement of Youth Ministry.

During intervals, games were led by different Youth Core participants, songs were sung, and a good time was had by all.

It was a productive weekend and those who participated are now both qualified and eager to give their assistance to conference churches who need help with their youth ministries. For further details, write: Mr. Steve Hudder, Southeast Conference Office, P.O. Box 29883, Atlanta, GA 30359.

Roxanne George



Sanctuary of Central Congregational Church, UCC, Atlanta, GA

Around The Conference

Central Church, Atlanta, GA

The Southeast News

Second-Class Postage Paid at
Atlanta, Georgia 30359

Publication Number 504480

Published monthly October and
November; February to July, inclusive;
bi-monthly August-September and
December-January, by and for
the churches of the

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
The United Church of Christ

2676 Clairmont Rd., Atlanta, Ga. 30329
Telephone (404) 633-5655

Subscription Rate — \$1.00 Per Year

Printed by The Roanoke Leader
Roanoke, Alabama

Vol. 29 March, 1979 No. 2

POSTMASTER: Send Form 3579 to
P.O. Box 29833, Atlanta, Ga. 30359

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Kentucky, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

One of the largest churches in the conference, with some 500 members, is Central Congregational Church, UCC in Atlanta, GA.

Begun in 1882, as our second church start in Atlanta, Central Church was located in the downtown Atlanta area until the late 60's when, under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Frederick A. Meyer, it relocated to its present modern facility off Clairmont Road. Nestled in a grove of pine trees, the architecture of Central's sanctuary is most distinctive in the communication it gives the worshiper with the church's

beautiful natural surroundings.

In addition to regular church school and group activities, Central has initiated several distinctive programs including adult sponsorship of church school children, group celebrations and art shows. One of the most unusual programs, which was recently reported in *A.D. Magazine*, is a table set up near the sanctuary by the church's social action committee. The table comes complete with typewriters, paper and envelopes and affords the members of Central an opportunity to write to their congressman or senator concerning important social issues.

Central Church is also distinctive in that its building houses the "office" for the Southeast Conference. Not only are Conference staff active at Central, but a number of them have and are serving as officers of the church.

Rev. William T. Scott, Jr. has been pastor of Central for the past seven years.

NEWS & NOTES

Dr. David L. Beebe, pastor of Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, TN, was the resource leader at the Ministers' Study Day in the Southern Conference at Catawba College, Salisbury, NC, February 15, 1979. The group study was on worship.

George and Joyce Percival, of the Button Gwinnett United Church of Christ in Gwinnett County, GA, wrote a prayer that appears on the November page of the 1979 Family Thank Offering booklet, "With Heart, With Mind."

The Pleasant Hill Historical Society of the Cumberland has proudly announced that after two years of effort an official notification has been received from the office of the Tennessee Historical Commission stating that historic Pioneer Hall has been placed in the National Register of Historical Places, U.S. Dept. of the Interior. This is the first such listing in Cumberland County, TN.

A brief reminder that the annual SEC Minister's Convocation will be held at Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, AL on April 30 to May 2. The Convocation for Ministers of Small Churches will be held April 27-29, Prattville, AL.

Rev. Joyce Myers, OCLL staff person for the southern region, met on February 26th with the Women's Fellowship of Bonanza UCC in Jonesboro, GA.

Rev. George Bennett, pastor of Button Gwinnett UCC, his wife, Martha and the Bennett's three children appeared on WSB-TV in an open discussion concerning family life. Rev. Bennett is the regular host of WSB's weekly "Sound of Youth" program.

Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN is undertaking an intensive week-by-week study of the ten association goals adopted by the Alabama-Tennessee Association at their 1978 Annual Meeting.

Langdale, AL, Congregational-Christian Church broadcast its regular Sunday service over radio station WRLD during the four Sundays in the month of February. In further news, the church voted not to sell, but to lease the church's parsonage until such time as it is needed by the church.

Mr. George Percival, Button Gwinnett UCC member, conducted a television interview with Dr. Manfred Laun, a medical missionary visiting local UCC churches. The interview was conducted on Channel 36, Atlanta.

Mark Frey and other representatives of the Morgan-Scott Project presented the mission project's program at a February 25 potluck lunch at Pilgrim Church, UCC in Chattanooga.

Harris E. Heverly retired at the end of 1978 from his post with the Board for Homeland Ministries. He will continue as a consultant for BHM through 1979. Mr. Heverly has assisted churches in the raising of Capital Funds and served as a liaison between the Board and conferences. Recently, he has worked in the SEC with Bonanza, Central and Savannah First churches.

Bonanza Church in Jonesboro, GA will once again sponsor this year a special Lenten offering, the proceeds of which will go to church projects. Nearly \$300 was raised in such an effort last year.

The Congregational Christian Church of Lanett, AL was recently honored at the annual Boy Scout dinner. They were presented with a framed certificate in recognition of the church's 56 years of participation in the Boy Scout program with Troop #1. The scout leader, Mr. George Mann, who has served very ably in that capacity for almost 15 years, was awarded the Silver Beaver award, Scouting's highest award.

The Rev. Warner Noles has accepted the call as the pastor to Russell Woods Church, Phenix City, AL. The church is looking with new enthusiasm and determination to the future.

The Executive Council and Committees of the Alabama-Tennessee Association met at Chattanooga Pilgrim UCC on February 16 and 17. In addition to regular business, Association goals were discussed.

Our condolences to the family of Mrs. Ruth Hodnett, a member of Oak Grove Church, Pine Mountain, GA, who died on February 22nd.

Services Held

For Mrs. Carl Parker

Mrs. Zelma Kiser Parker, wife of Rev. Carl Parker, former minister of Fredonia Church in Barnesville, Georgia, died on January 9, 1979 at Providence Nursing Home in Thomaston, Georgia.

Mrs. Parker had been a member of Fredonia Church for some 35 years. Rev. Carl Parker served as minister of the Fredonia Church for several years in the mid-1940's.

Mrs. Parker is survived by her sister, Mrs. Henry Pickel; two sons, three daughters, ten grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Student minister Rex Williams has been called to the Wedowee-Noonday Church as their pastor. Rex is presently studying at Southern Union College.

Nine parish ministers from the Alabama-Tennessee Association attended a retreat held at a camp in Soddy-Daisy, TN February 5-6. Sponsored by the Association Committee on Church and Ministry, the retreat dealt with minister's needs.

The Central Alabama Association held a Valentine Party at the East Tallassee Church. The party was directed by Mrs. Challis Rhodes. Three churches were represented.

On February 10-11, Central Congregational Church, UCC in Atlanta, GA, celebrated the 25th anniversary of ordination of their pastor, the Rev. William Scott. In addition to a banquet and services of worship, time was spent reflecting on the relationship of the church to the world — yesterday and today.

The East Alabama Ladies Night was held at Southern Union College on February 17. Some 247 persons were present. In addition to having Rev. Ed Mehlhaff as the speaker, it was good to see the Huguley Church represented at this meeting.

Our condolences to the family of Barrett Ingram, a member of Elder Church, who died on February 24th.

Mr. Mike Lemmon resigned from Huguley Congregational Christian Church on February 25, 1979.